A Scriptural Catechism.

The Heads of the CHRISTIAN

RELIGION

Plainly, briefly, and fully delivered in a

CATECHISM,

Which endeavours a ſufficient *Anſwer* to every *Queſtion*, barely with a pertinent *Sentence* of Sacred *Scripture*, and Enables the Learner at once with eaſe to *confirm* as well as *aſſert* the great Articles of the *Faith once delivered unto the SAINTS.*

By Cotton Mather.

John XXI. XV. *Feed my Lambs.*

Boſton, Printed by *R. Pierce*, for *Nicholas Buttolph*, at the corner Shop, next to *Guttridg's* Coffee-Houſe. 1691.

X. COMMANDMENTS.

Worſhip thou ſhalt no God but Me.
No graven Image make to thee.
The Lords Name take not thou in vain.
The Sabbath do not thou profane.
Yield to thy Parents Honour due.
And ſee that thou no Murder do.
Commit thou no Adultery.
Moreover from all Stealing fly.
No falſe thing of thy Neighbour ſay.
And Covet not in any way.

LAMBS

Led unto Green Pastures and still Waters,

By a SCRIPTURAL

CATECHISM.

Quest. WHat *should* young *people count the most necessary or commendable thing that can be spoken of them?*

* *A.* 2 *Tim.* 3. 15. From a Child thou hast known the holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto Salvation.

Q. *Who is the* Author *of the Holy Scriptures contained in the thirty nine Books of the Old, and the twenty seven Books of the New Testament?*

A. 2 *Tim.* 3. 16. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for Doctrine, for Reproof, for Correction, for Instruction in Righteousness.

Q. *Is there but* One God, *the firſt cauſe and the laſt end of all things?*

* *A.* 1 *Cor.* 8. 15, 16. There is none other God, but one; for though there be that are called Gods, yet unto us there is but one God, of whom are all things, and we for him.

Q. *How many* Perſons, *or ways of Subſiſting, are there in the one God?*

* *A. Mat.* 28. 19. The Father, and Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Q. *What has God ſaid about his* Allſufficiency, *or his having enough in himſelf to ſatisfie himſelf and all other Beings?*

A. Gen. 17. 1. The Lord ſaid, I am the Allſufficient God.

Q. *What hath God ſaid about his* Unchangeableneſs, *or his being always the ſame?*

A. Sam. 1. 17. With him is no Variableneſs, nor ſhadow of Turning.

Q. *What has God ſaid about his* Immenſity, *or his being incomprehenſibly every-where?*

A. Jer. 23. 24. Can any hide himſelf in ſecret places, that I ſhall not ſee him? ſaith the Lord; do not I fill Heaven and Earth? ſaith the Lord.

Q. *What has God ſaid about his* Eternity, *or his being without any beginning or ending for-ever?*

A. Pſal. 90. 2. From everlaſting to everlaſting thou art God.

Q. *Is God ſuch Infinite* Knowledge *and* Wiſdom, *as moſt exactly to underſtand Himſelf and all other things?*

A. Pſal.

A. *Pſal.* 147. 5. Great is our Lord, his Underſtanding is infinite.

Q. *Is God ſuch Infinite* Goodneſs, *as to be in Himſelf moſt fully amiable and deſirable, and bountiful unto all his Creatures?*

A. *Zech.* 9. 17. How great is his goodneſs, & how great is his beauty!

Q. *Is God ſuch Infinite* Mercy, *as readily to ſuccour his poor Creatures in all their miſeries?*

A. *Eph.* 2. 4. God is rich in mercy.

Q. *Is God ſuch Infinite* Patience, *as to forbear long, and abate much the puniſhments due unto ſinful Creatures?*

A. *Nah.* 1. 3. The Lord is ſlow to Anger.

Q. *Is God ſuch Infinite* Holineſs, *as to Advance Himſelf alone, and to agree with none but thoſe that concur with him in doing ſo?*

A. *Iſa.* 6. 3. Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hoſts, the whole Earth is full of his glory.

Q. *Is God ſuch Infinite* Power, *as can do all things which imply not contradiction and imperfection?*

A. *Mat.* 19. 26. With God all things are poſſible.

Q. *Is there with God ſuch infinite* Soveraignty *as manages all things in the world, according to the counſel of his own Royal Will?*

A. *Dan.* 4. 35. He doth according to His Will, and none can ſtay his Hand, or ſay unto Him, what doeſt thou?

Q. *Hath God with an everlaſting* Decree *and* Purpoſe *fore-ordained whatſoever comes to paſs?*

A. *Eph.*

A. Eph. 1. 11. He works all things after the Counſel of his own Will.

Q. *Has God with an everlaſting* Election *choſen a certain number of men, to be Veſſels for the glory of his grace for-ever, with an everlaſting* Reprobation *paſſing over others?*

A. Rom. 8. 29, 30. Whom he did fore-know, them he alſo did predeſtinate, to be conformed unto the Image of his Son; moreover, whom he did predeſtinate them he alſo called.

Q. *Who made the World, and when and how?*

* *A. Gen.* 1. 1, 31. In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth; and God ſaw every thing that he had made, and behold it was very good; and the evening and the morning were the Sixth day.

Q. *Who* preſerves *and* governs *the world, and* rules *all the Motions in it?*

* *A. Pſal.* 103. 19. The Lord has prepared his Throne in the Heavens, and his Kingdom ruleth over all.

Q. *What are thoſe Heavenly* Spirits *which God made in the beginning of Time, for his own peculiar ſervice and Honour?*

A. Heb. 1. 14. Are not the Angels all Miniſtring Spirits, ſent forth to Miniſter for them who ſhall be Heirs of Salvation.

Q. *Are not many of the Angels become* Devils *or wicked Spirits, full of Enmity againſt God and Man?*

A. Jude 6. The Angels which kept not their firſt Eſtate, but left their own Habitation, He hath

hath reserved in everlasting Chains under Darkness unto the Judgment of the Great Day.

Q. *What was the condition in which* man *was Created?*

* *A. Gen.* 1. 27. God created man in his own Image, in the Image of God created he him, male and female created he them.

Q. *What was that* Covenant of works *which God made with man at the first Creation?*

A. Gal. 3. 10. Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the Law to do them.

Q. *When God made a* Trial *of mans obedience to Him, in forbidding him one* Tree *of Paradise, what was the issue of it?*

* *A. Gen.* 3. 6. When the Woman saw that the Tree was good for Food, and that it was pleasant to the Eyes, and a Tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.

Q. *What is now the state which the* Fall *of our first Parents has brought us all into?*

* *A. Rom.* 5. 12. By one man Sin entred into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned.

Q. *What is the* Nature *or Temper which by our Descent from sinful Parents we all come to be born with?*

A. Psal. 51. 5. Behold I was shapen in Iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Q. *What*

Q. What are now all the Actions *of all unre-newed men?*

A. Gen. 6. 5. God ſaw that the wickedneſs of man was great on the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Q. Is there not one ſin that becomes utterly unpardonable?

A. Mat. 12. 31. All manner of ſin and blaſphemy ſhall be forgiven to men, but the blaſphemy againſt the Holy Ghoſt ſhall not be forgiven unto men.

Q. What is the Miſery *which by our ſins we are now moſt juſtly plung'd into?*

A. Rom. 6. 23. The wages of ſin is Death.

Q. What are the external *calamities laid on us for our ſins?*

A. Gen. 3. 17, 18. Curſed is the ground for thy ſake, in ſorrow ſhalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns alſo and Thiſtles ſhall it bring forth to thee; in the ſweat of thy face ſhalt thou eat thy bread, until thou return unto the ground.

Q. What are the internal *calamities come on us for our ſins?*

A. Eph. 2. 1, 2, 3. And you who were dead in Treſpaſſes & ſins, wherein in time paſt ye walked according to the courſe of this world, according to the Prince of the power of the air, the ſpirit that now works in the Children of Diſobedience, among whom alſo we all had our Converſation

in

in times paſt in the luſt of our fleſh, fulfilling the deſires of the fleſh and of the mind, and were by nature the Children of wrath.

Q. What are the Eternal *plagues due to us for our ſins?*

A. Mark 9. 44. Their worm dieth not, and their fire is not quenched.

Q. What way has God found out for the Recovery *of man from his loſt eſtate?*

A. Joh. 3. 16. God ſo loved the world as to give his only begotten Son, that whoſoever believeth in him ſhould not periſh but have everlaſting life.

Q. What was the Covenant, *or Agreement which God the Father made with his ever-bleſſed Son, about the* Redemption *of his people?*

A. Pſal. 89. 2, 3. I have made a Covenant with my Choſen, I have ſworn unto *David* my ſervant, Thy ſeed will I eſtabliſh for-ever, and build up thy Throne to all generations.

Q. What is the Covenant, *or Engagement which God through his bleſſed Son has made with his people, about the* Grace *to be beſtowed upon them?*

A. Heb. 8. 10. This is the Covenant that I will make with the Houſe of Iſrael, ſaith the Lord; I will put my Laws into their minds, and write them in their hearts, and I will be to them a God, and they ſhall be to me a people.

Q. Of what quality are the Promiſes *of the New Covenant?*

A. 2 Pet. 1. 4. There are given to us exceed-

ing great and precious Promiſes.

Q. What *ſort of* Perſon *is He that has undertaken for the Salvation of loſt man?*

* *A. Rom.* 9. 5. Chriſt, who is over all, God bleſſed for ever; *Amen.*

Q. Has not our Divine Saviour *taken a* Man *to ſubſiſt in the ſame perſon with himſelf?*

A. Heb. 2. 14. Foraſmuch as the Children are partakers of fleſh and blood; He alſo Himſelf likewiſe took part of the ſame, that thro' Death he might deſtroy him that had the Power of death, that is, the Devil.

Q. After what manner was the Incarnation *of our Lord accompliſhed?*

* *A. Luk.* 1. 35. The Angel ſaid unto [*Mary*] The holy Spirit ſhall come upon thee, and the power of the Higheſt ſhall over-ſhadow thee; therefore alſo that Holy Thing that ſhall be born of thee, ſhall be called, the Son of God.

Q. What was the firſt State, *or the State of* Humiliation *wherein our Saviour has been concerned for us?*

A. Phil. 2. 7, 8. He made Himſelf of no Reputation, and took on Him the form of a Servant, and was made in the likeneſs of men; and being found in faſhion as a man, He humbled Himſelf, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Croſs.

Q. What is the ſecond State, *or the State of* Exaltation, *wherein our Saviour is concerned for us?*

A. Phil. 2. 9, 10, 11. Wherefore alſo God hath highly

highly exalted him, & given him a name which is above every name, that in the name of Jeſus every Knee ſhould bow, of things in Heaven, and things in Earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue ſhould confeſs that Jeſus Chriſt is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Q. *What proviſion has been made for the ſhine of all the Divine* Attributes *in the methods of our Salvation?*

A. Pſal. 85. 10, 11. Mercy & Truth are met together, Righteouſneſs and Peace have kiſſed each other, Truth ſhall ſpring out of the Earth, and Righteouſneſs ſhall look down from Heaven.

Q. *What is it that our Saviour does for us as he is the* Prophet *of our Souls?*

A. Luk. 1. 78, 79. The day-ſpring from on High has viſited us, to give light unto them that ſit in darkneſs and in the ſhadow of death; to guide our feet into the way of Peace.

Q. *What is the* Firſt *thing that our Saviour does for us as He is our* Prieſt?

A. Heb. 9. 26. Now once in the end of the world, has he appeared to put away ſin by the Sacrifice of Himſelf.

Q. *What is the* Second *thing that our Saviour does for us as He is our* Prieſt?

A. Heb. 7. 25. He is able to ſave them unto the uttermoſt, that come unto God by Him, ſeeing He ever liveth to make Interceſſion for them.

Q. *What is the* Firſt *thing that our Saviour does for us as He is our* King?

A. 2 *Cor.* 10 5. Caſting down imaginations and every high thing, that exalteth it ſelf againſt the knowledge of God, and bringing into Captivity every thought unto the obedience of Chriſt.

Q. *What is the* Second *thing that our Saviour does for us as He is our* King?

A. Eph. 1. 22. God has put all things under his feet, & given Him to be Head over all things unto the Church.

Q. *What is the* Third *and* Laſt *thing wherein our Lord will appear a moſt glorious* King?

A. Acts 17. 31. God hath appointed a day in the which He will judge the world in Righteouſneſs by that man whom he hath ordained.

Q. *Who is it that* Applies *all the ſalvation of our Lord unto the Souls of his Choſen Ones?*

A. Tit. 3 5. According to his mercy he ſaved us by the waſhing of Regeneration, and Renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Q. *Of what neceſſity is* Regeneration *for us all?*

* *A. Joh.* 3. 3. Except a man be born again he cannot ſee the Kingdom of God.

Q. *What is it that the Holy Spirit in* Vocation, *effectually calls us to the doing of?*

A. Acts 16. 31. Believe on the Lord Jeſus Chriſt and thou ſhalt be ſaved.

Q. *Has any Natural man, a* Free-will *of his own by which he is able to obey the Calls of God in the Goſpel?*

A. Eph. 2. 8. By grace are ye ſaved, through Faith, and that not of your ſelves, 'tis the gift of God.

Q. How

Q. *How does true* Faith *expreſs it ſelf, in the Soul of a Believer?*

* *A.* 2 *Tim.* 1, 12. I know whom I have believed, and I am perſwaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed him unto againſt that day.

Q. *What is the uſual proceeding of the Holy Spirit in* bringing *men home to the Lord Jeſus Chriſt?*

A. *Luk.* 1. 17. To make ready a people prepared for the Lord

Q. *What is that* Repentance *which true Faith is always attended with?*

* *A. Prov.* 28. 13. He that covereth his ſins ſhall not proſper, but whoſo confeſſeth and forſaketh them ſhall have mercy.

Q. *What is that* Obedience *which true Faith is always followed with?*

* *A. Acts* 24. 16. I exereiſe my ſelf to have always a Conſcience void of offence towards God and towards men.

Q. *What is the* immediate effect *of a ſaving Faith?*

A. 1 *Cor.* 6. 17. He that is joyned unto the Lord is one Spirit.

Q. *What is the* firſt benefit *that flows from our union to the Lord Jeſus Chriſt by Faith in Him?*

A. John 1. 12. As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on his Name.

Q. *What is a* ſecond benefit *which flows from our Union to the Lord Jeſus Chriſt by Faith in Him?*

A. *Rom.*

A. Rom. 3. 22 Even the Righteousneſs of God which is by Faith of Jeſus Chriſt, unto all and upon all that believe.

Q. What *is a* third benefit *which flows from our Union to the Lord Jeſus Chriſt by Faith in Him?*

A. 1 *Theſ.* 5. 23. The very God of peace ſanctifie you wholly, and your whole Spirit and Soul and Body, be preſerved blameleſs unto the coming of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

Q. What are the Benefits *which here do flow from our Adoption, Juſtification, and Sanctification?*

A. Rom. 5. 1, 2, 3. We have peace with God thro' our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, by whom alſo we have acceſs by Faith into this grace wherein we ſtand, and rejoyce in hope of the glory of God; and not only ſo, but we glory in Tribulations alſo.

Q. What benefit ſhall believers at the end of their life *be made partakers of?*

A. Phil. 1. 23. To depart and to be with Chriſt, which is by far the beſt of all.

Q. What benefit ſhall believers at the end of the world *be made partakers of?*

A. Col. 3. 4. When Chriſt who is our life ſhall appear, then ſhall ye alſo appear with him in glory.

Q. What benefit, and bleſſedneſs will believers enjoy with and from the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, in the Heavens for-ever?

A 1 *John* 3. 2. We ſhall be like him, for we ſhall ſee him as he is.

Q. What

Q *What will be the condition* of Children dying in their Infancy, *and belonging to ſuch Parents as have carried them unto the Lord Jeſus Chriſt.*

A. Mat. 19. 14. Of ſuch is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Q. Does our Faith *in Chriſt ſet us at liberty from the* Law *as a Rule of Life?*

A Rom. 3. 31. Do we make void the Law thro' faith, God forbid. Yea, we eſtabliſh the Law.

Q. *What is the* duty *which all men are now by* Commandment *obliged, and believers are over and above by* Principle *inclined unto?*

A Mic. 6. 8. He hath ſhewed thee O man what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do Juſtice, and to love Mercy, & to walk humbly with thy God.

Q *What is the ſumme of the four Commandments in the* Firſt Table *of the moral Law?*

A Mat. 22. 37, Thou ſhalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy Soul, & with all thy mind.

Q *What is the* Firſt Commandment? *or the Commandment which reſpects the* Natural Worſhip *of God, and enjoins us to worſhip the only true God, and him only?*

* *A Exod.* 20. 3. Thou ſhalt have no other Gods before me.

Q *What is* one ſpecial duty *to be done in exerciſing the graces required in the firſt commandment?*

A. Pſal. 84. 8. I will hear what God the Lord will ſpeak.

Q. *What*

Q. What is a ſecond ſpecial duty, *to be done in exerciſing the graces required in the firſt commandment?*

A. Eph. 5. 19. Speaking to your ſelves in Pſalms, and Hymns, and Spiritual Songs, ſinging and making melody in your hearts unto the Lord.

Q. What is a Third ſpecial duty *which we are by the Firſt Commandment put upon?*

A. Phil. 4. 6. In every thing, by Prayer and Supplication, with Thanksgiving, let your Requeſts be made known unto God.

Q. What ſpecial Direction *has our Lord given us, about the Things and Frames to be expreſſed in our Prayers?*

A. Mat. 6. 9, 13. After this manner pray ye, Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy Kingdom come, thy Will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven; give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our Debts, as we forgive our Debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory for ever, *Amen.*

Q. What is the Second Commandment? *or the Commandment which reſpects the* Appointed Worſhip *of God, and enjoyns us to worſhip God, in ſuch ways as he hath ordained, and not ſuch as man hath invented?*

* A. *Exod.* 20 45. Thou ſhalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeneſs of any thing, thou ſhalt not bow down thy ſelf to them.

Q. What

Q. *What is the* firſt *Inſtitution of our Lord, which the Second Commandment would have us to obſerve, in order to our attendance upon all the reſt?*

A. *Acts* 2. 47. The Lord added unto the Church daily ſuch as ſhould be ſaved.

Q. *What are the* Officers *which the Commandment has now eſtabliſhed in the Churches of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt?*

A. 1 *Tim.* 5. 17. and 3. 10. Let the Elders that rule well, be counted worthy of double honour, eſpecially they who labour in the Word and Doctrine. Likewiſe the Deacons, let theſe firſt be proved; then let them uſe the Office of a Deacon, being found blameleſs.

Q. *What are the* Diſciplines *which the Commandment orders us to maintain in the Churches of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt?*

A *Mat.* 18. 15, 16, 17. If thy Brother Treſpaſs againſt thee, go and tell him his fault betweeen thee and him alone; if he ſhall hear thee, thou haſt gained thy Brother: But if he will not hear, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witneſſes, every word may be eſtabliſhed; and if he ſhall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the Church; but if he neglect to hear the Church, let him be unto thee, as an heathen man and a publican.

Q. *Which is the* Firſt *of the* two Sacraments *to be uſed in the Churches of the New Teſtament? or, the Sacrament that is to Seal our Ingrafting into Chriſt, and partaking of his grace, and our engage-*

ment that we will be the Lords?

A *Acts* 2. 38, 39. Repent and be Baptiſed every one of you, in the name of Jeſus Chriſt, for the Remiſſion of ſins; for the promiſe is unto you, and unto your Children, and unto all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God ſhall call.

Q *What is the* Second *of the* two Sacraments *belonging to the New Teſtament? or the Sacrament that is to ſeal unto us our Intereſt in the Sacrifice of our Lords body and blood, and our Spiritual nouriſhment in our communion with him?*

A 1 *Cor.* 11. 23, 24, 25, 26. The Lord Jeſus the ſame night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and when he had given Thanks, He brake it and ſaid; Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you, This do in remembrance of Me; after the ſame manner alſo he took the Cup, when he had ſupped, ſaying, this Cup is the new Teſtament in my blood. This do ye, as oft as ye drink it; in Remembrance of me; for as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye ſhew the Lords death, till he come.

Q *What muſt a man do that he may be a* worthy Receiver *of the Lords Supper?*

A 1 *Cor.* 11. 28. Let a man Examine himſelf, & ſo let him eat of that bread, & drink of that cup.

Q *What is the* Third Commandment? *or the Commandment that reſpects the* Manner of Divine Worſhip; *and enjoyns us that we neither irreverently nor unprofitably treat any of thoſe things where-*

* *A* 1 *Joh.* 1. 8. If we ſay we have no ſin, we deceive our ſelves, and the Truth is not in us.

Q. Since we cannot perfectly *keep the Commandments, how ſhall we get wiſdom that yet we may* ſincerely *do it.*

* *A Jam.* 1. 5. If any of you lack wiſdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it ſhall be given him.

Q. What rule has God given us for our Thoughts?

A Jer. 4. 14. Waſh thine heart from wickedneſs, that thou mayſt be ſaved; how long ſhall vain Thoughts lodge within thee?

Q. What rule hath God given us for our Words?

A Eph. 4. 29. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good unto the uſe of edifying, that it may Minister grace unto the hearers.

Q. What rule hath God given about our Actions?

A Pſal. 53. 23. To him that ordereth his Converſation aright, will I ſhew the Salvation of God.

FINIS